

difficulties with the shuttle craft itself. And NASA was trying to get its budget acted on favorably by Congress. So, there is a real possibility that this flight was hurried and that could have had a great bearing on the resulting explosion. So while everybody is going through what appears to be a knee jerk reaction, which I can understand because it is a tragedy when any innocent people die, some very important matters ought not be overlooked. There have been deaths before of larger numbers of people than occurred this time. But I think the reaction being seen around the country is based, to some extent, on a guilty conscience because there is a realization by some people that perhaps this flight should have not been taken at the time that it was. It had the benefit of national television and perhaps international television, so that gave it a greater impact because people saw it. But is a person a hero because of an act he or she places, or because he or she dies as a result of it? If it is the death of a person that converts one from a citizen to a hero then the pilots of some of these airplanes who are flying people to very important destinations ought to have been declared heroes. Grissom, White and Chaffee, who burned to death on a launch pad, whereas these people died almost instantaneously, should have been elevated to the position of heroes. There is much political hay being made from this incident. The television, they made it an extravaganza. They showed replays, and replays until the ability to feel was numbed. There was a repetition and redundancy that was unseemly. If there was genuine concern from the families, as was being pretended, you wouldn't have had these bumbling, insincere interviewers asking intrusive, insensitive questions over, and over, and over. They would not have shown the death of these people again and again in slow motion, with computer graphics. This might be all right and even necessary in the process of an investigation, but to subject the family and friends of these departed people to this thing I think was one of the worst aspects of the whole issue. That was indeed the tragedy. This Legislature and others wanted to make the hostages in Iran heroes because they happened to be in the wrong place at the wrong time. It is regrettable that these people died, but are they heroes? There was as much of the commercial connected with this flight as anything else and NASA had to hasten this flight because they were criticized and told that the commercial feasibility of using these flights may be diminished because they had to be postponed and put off so many times for so